

TOWN OF GOSHEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – Regular Meeting
Town Hall Conference Room
November 10, 2015

PRESENT: Robert P. Valentine, Dexter S. Kinsella, Steven M. Romano

OTHERS: Allan Walker, John McKenna

Robert P. Valentine called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

IN A MOTION made by Robert P. Valentine, seconded by Steven M. Romano, it was VOTED that the minutes of the meeting of October 14, 2015 were approved with corrections. Motion carried with Dexter S. Kinsella abstaining. (Called to order at 5:00 p.m.; meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.)

IN A MOTION made by Steven M. Romano, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was VOTED that the minutes of the October 20, 2015 were approved as amended, taking out the paragraph under “Correspondence” and inserting corrections. Motion carried with Robert P. Valentine abstaining. (Motion relative to minutes of October 14, 2015, invalid abstention by Dexter S. Kinsella; under Correspondence, letter from Robert P. Valentine. The letter addressed the power to declare an emergency that the First Selectman has, in which Robert Valentine delegates in his absence, to Selectman Steven Romano; and then in Mr. Romano’s absence, powers be delegated to Selectman Dexter S. Kinsella; and then in Mr. Kinsella’s absence, on to Fire Chief, Barry Hall.)

IN A MOTION made by Steven M. Romano, seconded Robert P. Valentine, it was VOTED to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2015. Motion carried with Steven M. Romano abstaining.

IN A MOTION made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Steven M. Romano, it was VOTED to approve the minutes of November 3, 2015. Voted unanimous.

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES: None

IN A MOTION made by Robert P. Valentine, seconded by Steven M. Romano, it was VOTED to approve the warrant and payroll of November 12, 2015 in the amount of \$77,511.91. It was noted included in the payroll and warrant were the payroll in the amount of \$21,834.73. and the warrant in the amount of \$55,677.18. Voted unanimous. Items contained in this warrant showed expenses from the municipal election on November 3, 2015, and purchase of winter road salt.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT:

Bob Valentine gave thanks to Roy Walzer for allowing the town to place snow fencing on his property on 5-1/2 Mile road. This installation will greatly elevate drifting snow this winter to help in plowing the roads.

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Bob Valentine reported that he had additional conversations with Mr. Benoit (Flora Road) concerning the need to remove the horseshoe pit, light post and dock section from town property. The two will meet again soon to address the location of Mr. Benoit's septic tank.

On Monday, November 2, 2015, Bob Valentine was invited to attend the celebration at Wamogo Regional High School that marked honors bestowed upon the school and its students. The Middle School is the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) Middle School of the year for 2015-2016. In addition to this distinction, at this program seniors, Mikayla Ford, Amanda Fowler, Meagan Samele and Emma Wood were honored for their first place finish in the veterinary science competition at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky the last week in October. These students were chosen from 42 other states. Wamogo is only the second Connecticut winner in the history of the veterinary science competition. The Selectmen render kudos to these outstanding students.

Donna Winn, newly hired Recreation Director for Goshen, began her service to Goshen on Monday, November 9, 2015. She looks forward to new ventures and programs for our community.

Bob Valentine reported that he has received the list of the STEAP grant recipients, and unfortunately, Goshen was not included on this list. Goshen will re-submit their application in a new round of the application process.

In search for and Administrative Assistant, ads have been placed in the local newspapers, State Job Bank, and Goshen's Website with a closing date of November 13, 2015.

Bob Valentine reported that he has placed himself as the primary contact for many of the tasks that Rhonda Gelormino, the current Administrative Assistant, had responsibility. Once a new Administrative Assistant is in place, these responsibilities will revert to that individual.

Scott Jackson, Intergovernmental Policy Manager, from the State Office of Policy and Management, met with Bob Valentine, Mayor Elinor Carbone, Torrington, First Selectmen, Leo Paul, Litchfield, and Don Stein, Barkhamsted, to discuss the possibility of receiving a grant to build a new Regional Animal Control facility. This worthy endeavor is being supported by the Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NWHCOG) which will apply for a grant for funding.

IN A MOTION made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Steven M. Romano, it was VOTED to add **item 9b. Appointment to Agriculture Council** and add **item 9c., Appointment of Tax Collector**. Voted unanimous.

IN A MOTION made by Robert P. Valentine, seconded by Steven M. Romano, it was VOTED to appoint Donna Winn to the Safety Committee. Voted unanimous.

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IN A MOTION made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Steven M. Romano, it was VOTED to appoint Sharon Laughlin to the Agricultural Council, term expiring October 31, 2018. Voted unanimous.

IN A MOTION made by Robert P. Valentine, seconded by Steven M. Romano, it was VOTED to appoint Rebecca Juchert-Derungs as Tax Collector term expiring November 21, 2017. Voted unanimous.

The Board reviewed the Tax Collector's Report for October 31, 2015, noting that the collection rate (collected less refunds vs. total budgeted) was recorded as 57.87%. IN A MOTION made by Steven M. Romano, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was VOTED to receive the Tax Collector's Report for October 31, 2015 as submitted. Voted unanimous.

A discussion of the Board on the "*Town of Goshen Employee of the Year*" activity was held. The consensus was that, due to lack of interest and low participation of previous campaigns, not to have an employee of the year this year. Rather, a date will be decided upon to invite all town employees to lunch catered by either AJ's or the Goshenette.

The opening for Commission Clerk is being advertised with a closing date of November 13, 2015. Bob Valentine encouraged the Selectmen to help in finding a clerk to take minutes for the Board of Finance.

The Board reviewed the updated version of the job description of the Selectmen's Administrative Assistant. The changes were few and minor in content.

IN A MOTION made by Steven M Romano, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was VOTED to approve the job description of the Selectmen's Administrative Assistant as amended. Voted unanimous.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Steven M. Romano, Lake Weed Committee Chairman, reviewed the agenda of the special meeting of the Lake Weed Committee to be held on November 24, 2015 at **10:00 a.m.** in the Town Hall Conference Room. Dr. Knoecklein will present the reports for Tyler Lake, Dog Pond and West Side Pond.

IN A MOTION made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Steven M. Romano, it was VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide